SUBSTITUTE ABSTRACT

The invention relates to substrates for O^6 -alkylguanine-DNA alkyltransferases (AGT) of formula R_1 -A-X-CH₂-R₃-R₄-L₁, wherein A is a group recognized by AGT as a substrate, X is oxygen or sulfur, R_1 is a group $-R_2$ -L₂ or a group R_5 , R_2 and R_4 are, independently of each other, a linker, R_3 is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic group, or an optionally substituted unsaturated alkyl, cycloalkyl or heterocyclyl group with the double bond connected to CH_2 , R_5 is arylmethyl or heteroarylmethyl or an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocyclyl group, L_1 is a label, a plurality of same or different labels, a bond connecting R_4 to A forming a cyclic substrate, or a further group $-R_3$ -CH₂-X-A- R_1 , and L_2 is a label or a plurality of same or different labels. The invention further relates to methods of transferring a label from these substrates to O^6 -alkylguanine-DNA alkyltransferases (AGT) and AGT fusion proteins.